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Development (1948) Department.

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Dated 26/8/48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Ministers Conference at New Delhi - January 1948 - Papers recorded.

NO. F.10/2/48/GMF.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Agriculture.

New Delhi, the 4/8th March 1948.

From

Vas Dev, Esq. B.A.,
Assistant Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Government of India.

To

The Secretary,
Government of Madras,
Development Department,
Madras.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the proceedings of a meeting held in New Delhi, on the 29th and 30th January 1948, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Agriculture to discuss measures for intensification of the Grow More Food Campaign for such action as the Provincial Government may consider necessary.

Your most obedient Servant,

x x x x
Assistant Secretary.

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Proceedings of the Meeting on Grow More Food held on the 29th and 30th January 1948.

The following were present:-

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVES.

1. The Hon'ble Mr. Jairamdas Daultram, Minister for Food and Agriculture.
2. Mr. B.R. Sen, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.
3. Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.
4. Sir Datar Singh, Vice Chairman, I.C.A.R.
5. Mr. S.M. Srivastava, Secretary, I.C.A.R.
6. Dr. B.M. Piplani, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.
7. Dr. Baini Prasad, Fisheries Development Adviser.
8. Dr. H.S. Pruthi, Plant Protection Adviser.
9. Rai Bahadur B.C. Jijawat, Irrigation Adviser.
10. Mr. R.L. Sethi, Agricultural Commissioner.
11. Rai Bahadur P.N. Nanda, Animal Husbandry Commissioner.
12. Dr. T.G. Shirname, A.M.A.

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES.

1. The Hon'ble Mr. R.K. Patil, Minister for Agriclture, C.P.
2. -do- Mr. N. Kanungo, Minister for Development, Orissa.
3. The Hon'ble Mr. H. Siddiaya, Minister for Agriculture, Mysore State.
4. The Hon'ble Mr. Ranjit Singh, Development Minister, East Punjab.
5. Mr. W.R.S. Satthianadhan, Secretary, Development Department, Government of Madras.
6. Mr. B.N. Sarkar, Director of Agriculture, Bihar.

NON OFFICIALS.

1. Mr. J. Mclutyre, Director, I.C.I., New Delhi.
2. Mr. N.G. Apte, Water Consultant, Bombay.

At the outset the Hon'ble Minister said that he did not want this meeting to consider the question of making India self-sufficient in regard to food, or in a general way, of increasing of food production. The great problem according to him was to see how the sowings would be so influenced as to yield maximum outturn of food by the end of this year. The rabi harvests problem therefore was confined to the coming Kharif and the rabi harvests. In order to make the discussion still more concrete, he said that discussion should take place from the point of view of two factors, that of the technical suitability of measures which could be implemented within 1948, and of their being acceptable to the public from the psychological point of view.

On this basis, he suggested that they would take up discussion Province by Province starting with Madras, where, owing to the failure of the North East monsoons, the position had become grave and consider the question of stepping up production. Discussion was not only to be confined to cereals but to all food stuffs that people could use.

MADRAS.

The chief difficulties facing Madras Government were pointed out by the Secretary, Agriculture Department, Government of Madras as follows, and the discussion that took place is noted below, for purposes of convenience along with each specific point.

1. Want of transport facilities to move manures from one area to another:- Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy pointed out that though movement of all materials required for Grow More Food Schemes had been up-graded to priority No. 1, fertilizers still continued to move under priority No. 2.

Action necessary now is to arrange with the Transport Ministry that movement of fertilizers in the country takes place under priority No. 1. This is being done.

2. Export of oil cakes outside Madras:- It was pointed out that export had already been banned by the Madras Government and that further action was necessary on this.

3. Supply of Diesel oil for pumping in areas where crops had failed:- Madras had asked for additional one lac gallons of diesel oil. It was explained by Mr. Krishnsaswamy that high speed diesel oil was in extremely short supply. We, have, however, got into touch with the Works, Mines and Power Ministry and requested them to arrange for additional supply to Madras Government. This question is further being pursued with the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power.

4. Import of super-phosphates:- Madras have requested that imports of phsosphates might be allowed more freely. It was explained that import of fertilizers should not be made free as otherwise it would destroy the indigenous industry. It is now proposed to form a pool of phosphatic fertilizers under which all imported and local production will be brought in and distributed to the Provinces. This will serve the double purpose of increasing available supplies, particularly from imports and simultaneously protect the indigenous industry from foreign competition.

The Hon'ble Member from C.P. on the other hand, suggested that we might allow free imports to take place and subsidised the indigenous production. This would serve the same ends and increase supplies from abroad considerably. It was agreed that this questio

should be examined further.

5. Prohibition of the use of sulphate of ammonia for potato production:- It was explained that this was, in fact, not correct as the Government of India letter suggested that owing to shortage of supplies, sulphate of ammonia might be used for raising food crops only. This did not prevent its being used for potatoes. It was, however, agreed that a letter would issue from the Ministry of Agriculture here to clarify the position in this respect. This is being done.

6. Difficulties in the production of green manures:- The Madras Secretary wanted facilities to be ensured for the collection of leaves from the forests without previous permission and payment. It was pointed out that the Forests Department had already relaxed rules relating to previous permission being necessary in this regard.

7. Facilities for digging wells:- It was explained by Mr. Krishnaswamy that so far as the operational side of pump irrigation was concerned , the Government of India was already paying a 50% subsidy.

A suggestion was made that with the help of the Central Ground Water Organisation, maximum number of tube wells should be constructed in the shortest possible time. On examination, however, it was found that firstly, except for the Coromandel Coast area, surveys had not yet definitely established suitable sites for tube well construction. The Irrigation Adviser mentioned that when more equipment became available he would concentrate the digging of tube wells in the Vridhachalam talul which was found to be most productive of results. He made a suggestion here that in certain areas in Madras large artesian wells which existed were not being used fully for irrigating maximum possible acreage. It was accordingly suggested that the Madras Government might take all necessary measures to ensure that the private wells were fully utilised.

8. Supply of iron and steel for agricultural purposes:- The present position was explained that quarterly provincial quotas are allotted by the Ministry of Industry and Supply in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture. It was also further agreed that while making these allocations, the Industry and Supply Ministry would recommend to the Provinces on the lines of Madras Government, who have now reserved 50% of its quota for agricultural purposes, to use fixed portions for agricultural purposes. This has already been put into effect.

9. Generation of electricity should be stepped up:- It was explained by the Madras Government that in order to divert water, supply of electricity had to be reduced. The Madras Government have generally been feeling the shortage of materials required for the generation of electricity.

Action necessary on this will be, when the Madras Government send their requirements to take up the matter with the Industry and Supply Ministry to see that supplies are expedited.

10. Raising of short term crops:- Mr. Krishnswamy explained that this was conditioned by rainfall factor. As transplantation of rice had to take place at the time of monsoon, the raising of two crops was possible only in areas where there were two monsoons or one monsoon was heavier than the other. Wherever these conditions prevailed, raising of two crops was already the practice.

11. Development of drainage facilities:- It was explained by Mr. Krishnaswamy that most of the drainage projects were long term projects involving very large expenditure.

12. The encouragement of private agricultural companies:- It was explained that the Finance Ministry had taken the view that if the work of agricultural companies was expected to yield increased production of food crops, then it was entitled to the usual subsidy.

So far as the purchase of capital equipment by these companies was concerned the Madras Government had already been informed that they themselves might consider giving such loans interest free or at reduced interest.

13. Supply of tractors:- Mr. Krishnaswamy stated that there was a great deal of confusion on this subject. Tractors were being ordered by Province like Madras from all over with the result that once they were committed to a certain firm like Messrs. Volkart Brothers, they had to wait till they obtained tractors from them. On the other hand, if the Provincial requirements were centralised and orders placed by the Central Government supplies could be arranged through different sources and distributed according to needs in the Provinces. Secretary, Agriculture Ministry explained in this connection that he had discussed the question with the distribution Agent at Bombay and the Agents had agreed that the Government should have/over all control on the distribution of tractors. This would ensure better servicing since a particular kind of tractors could be concentrated in a specific region.

14. The second point with regard to tractors was that the arrangements for their purchase and operation should be done on a co-operative basis with the result that there would be once central workshop one Engineer and maintenance would be much easier. The Madras and other Governments have been informed accordingly that individual sales should be stopped and that distribution to co-operative socieities might be arranged in future.

The animal Husbandry Commissioner, at this stage suggested that we should have a large scheme to save the existing cattle in the country. He suggested that with a small expenditure and with a training of over 3 to 6 months a vaccination programme should be under taken in this direction. It was agreed that the suggestion that financing for this might be arranged through private donations be further explored. Provinces are to be addressed on this question. The Animal Husbandry Commissioner also suggested that schemes for the development of dry seed farms should be expanded further.

## ORISSA.

The main points above Orissa as revealed in the discussion were short supplies of fertilisers, pumps, and well digging, lack of staff difficulties in the development of fisheries and in the preservation of wild mangoes, and shortage of cattle power.

1. Shortage of fertilisers:- (a) Owing to lack of sufficient purchasing power, they are not in need of Ammonium sulphate and super phosphate. What they require are more oil cakes. The main difficulty has been because of the ban on export from Madras which always used to form the main source of supply. Secretary, Agriculture Ministry said that if supply of oil cake from Madras was totally stopped, the result would be that it would be necessary for larger quantities of fertilizers to be given to Orissa. It was pointed out by Hon'ble Minister from C.P. that the ban on the export of oil cakes was misused. He cited the instance of Bombay where the price had been recently raised from Rs. 70 to 130. No cultivator could afford topay more than Rs. 110. The obvious explanation was that oil cakes were used more for manures for commercial crops like sugar-cane, etc. He suggested that the only remedy would be to make the distribution of oil cakes free all over the country. This question had to be examined further and taken up with the Bombay Government.

(b) Discussion also revealed further scope for making of green manure and compost. Financial help can be given to Orissa for pilot schemes for green manures and for compost making. The Chief Chemist in charge of the subject at the centre willbe asked to proceed to Orissa and advise them on the question.

2. Pumps and well digging:- The position with regard to pumps is the same as in Madras and Mr. Krishnaswamy said that he was taking up the question of their supplies with the Industry and Supply Ministry.

cement, coal, manure, tractors and good seeds. They were also in need of an entamologist for plant protection work.

EAST PUNJAB.

The Hon'ble Member from East Punjab said that conditions in the Province could be improved by digging more wells, for which necessary materials would be required and by arranging for the supply and the movement of fodder. Till their cattle position improved they would require tractors for immediate use. With regard to cattle it was suggested by Sir Datar Singh that a scheme had been prepared for cattle concentration camp in the Punjab and when this was given effect to, it should save current production from roaming cattle. The Animal Husbandry Commissioner suggested that as East Punjab had recently had very bad rinder pest, it was necessary to introduce large scale vaccination. It seems, this is being done by the Punjab Government. Seed farms were also expected to be started in each district but will take over a year to produce results. The Hon'ble Minister from C.P. stated that they would be in a position to supply Punjab Government's requirements of seed jowar if their requirements were intimated to them.

Conclusion:- The Hon 'ble Minister while closing the meeting suggested that a note on the proceedings of the conference should be circulated to all the Governments whose representatives were present.

Before closing the proceedings, he pointed out that unless the Provinces set up some emergency machinery to see that all possible steps were taken to materially increase the food crops during the coming two seasons, the discussion held would serve no purpose. He accordingly requested all the Provinces and States participating in the meeting to go back and immediately arrange a special machinery in their departments for this purpose. This means fixing up of responsibility on one or two persons under the supervision of the minister so as to work on an emergency basis for 1948. These persons should be relieved of other routine work. Similarly, at the centre, the Hon'ble Minister proposed to set up in the Agriculture Ministry some type of emergency machinery and to ear-mark people who were to see that progress was made in Provinces and that they were given all possible guidance and facilities for getting from other Ministries of the Centre the help required by them.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s.

P.T.O

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) may see India's letter in the c.f. It has been examined in the sectional notes. No particul action is considered necessary on the suggestions. Secretary may also see as he attended the Conference.

x x x
13.6.

x x x
14.6.

C.V.N.
14.6.

W.R.S.S.
15.6.

H.M. (Agriculture). K.M.
17.6.

Recorded.

x x x
18.6.

G.O. Ms. No. 4403 dated 26.8.1948.

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Ministers Conference at New Delhi - January 1948 - Papers recorded.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.
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With regard to wells, the Hon'ble Member from Orissa said that in view of the shortage of steel and iron they would welcome some other technique for sinking wells. It was suggested that hydraulic lime might be used for constructing wells. This, however, was again impracticable because of shortage of coal and fire-wood. Suggestion was then made for constructing shallow wells. It was, however pointed out that this was not possible in the dealt areas. Mr. Krishnaswamy stated that he would ask the Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India to examine possibilities in this respect in Orissa. Orissa also needed technical help in locating water.

3. Lack of staff:- There were great pos[redacted] of waste land and irrigation development in Or[redacted] of special staff, it had not been possible [redacted] in this direction on large scale even thoug[redacted] 1947-48 with regard to Grow More Food Schem[redacted] satisfactory. Orissa will also require spec[redacted] development possibilities in Eastern States [redacted] been merged into that Province. It was expl[redacted] from Orissa that a small survey partly had al[redacted] areas which could be reclaimed on a large scal[redacted] to prepare schemes for collective farming and [redacted] these farms in the newly reclaimed areas.

4. Fisheries:- It was pointed out that Orissa, had enormous resources of fisheries, particularly in the huge Chilka lake. It seems, however, that this field was not now yielding as good results as in the past. Orissa Government wanted help from technical experts at the Centre to enable them to preserve their main source of fish and for improving the catching of fish from sea. It was pointed out by the Fishery Development Adviser that the development of Chilka lake for fisheries was a long term problem. The difficulties were with regard to staff, equipment, and necessary materials. The training of staff would take about 10 months and materials were gradually being obtained from abroad. The Hon'ble Minister mentioned that fish was a cheap substitute for food and that we might make some special efforts for increasing its production during 1948.

5. Preservation of wild mangoes:- The Hon'ble Member from Orissa said that wild mangoes grew in Orissa in plenty but were wasted for lack of technique for preserving them. The Fruit Development Adviser point out that mangoes could be very economically sorted out, then they could be dried and preserved or tinned and bottled.

He promised to take up this question in consultation with the canning and tinning experts in that area.

6. Shortage of cattle power:.The Hon'ble Minister from Orissa said that the price of cattle had gone up there 5 times and that culti vators could not get cattle even on subsidized basis. What they were urgently in need of was improved stock. Sir Datar Singh mentione that some two years back he had given Orissa a scheme for the improvement of Gowshalas. These could be developed into cattle breeding centres. If Orissa took up that scheme in right earnest, he would arrange for the supply of cattle. The solution for cattle shortage, according to him, lay in grading our own cattle, eliminating useless stock and stopping their propagation.

## MYSORE.

The question of helping the States has not yet been finally decided by the Government of India and Hon'ble Minister suggested that the question should be examined particularly from the legal aspect. This is being done. The Hon'ble Member from Mysore State stated that their chief requirements were tractors (their total demand being 60 to [redacted] of about 30 h.p.) and petrol and electric fittings.

Secretary pointed out the difficulties in supplying tractors to Mysore State with the present supplies and suggested that they should explore possibility of bringing more land under cultivation by other methods. With regard to petrol Mr. Krishnaswamy mentioned that the Works, Mines and Power Ministry have stated that there would be little difficulty in supplying petrol in future. With regard to trucks it was suggested that the requirements from Provinces for purposes of moving green manure, compost and oil cakes might be collected.

## CENTRAL PROVINCES.

[redacted]tral Province's agricultural production problems were [redacted]e following headings:-

[redacted]ate supply of fertilisers and materials:- Firstly the [redacted]es below 6 h.p. for watering vegetables, fruits, [redacted]y require some chemical material like pottasium chlori[redacted]on which can used in ordinary indigenous metal barrels [redacted] and ammunition for scaring away the animals that come [redacted]s. Then again they are short of fertilizers and iron [redacted] difficulties with regard to shortage of cattle will be [redacted]by the mechanical cultivation arrangements under which [redacted]going to be sent soon for reclamation purposes in C.P.

2. Staff:-C.P. is very short of trained technical personnel. Bombay cannot lend such staff but they may be in a position to train some officers from C.P.

C.P. explained that their difficulty in offering more suitable terms to technical staff was the fact that the Central Government subsidy for Grow More Food Schemes was restricted to 5 years only. It was however, explained to them that though that was correct, the work with regard to agricultural production and improvement was of a permanent nature and staff should generally be appointed on a permanent basis to ensure progress. Another question touched in this connection was that the scales of pay for some of the posts differed from province to province, with the result that men change from place to place and it was accordingly suggested to have uniform scales. The Hon'ble Minister said that it was not a problem that could be tacked within 1948.

C.P. are in need of some engineering staff to undertake minor irrigation projects.

3. Boring of wells:-The position was explained by the Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India. He said that our limited resources in materials and men should be concentrated in areas. Like U.P. and Bihar where definite results could be obtained and we should not friter away our resources in uncertain areas of development. He also mentioned that in most of the Provinces, Governments were busy with large multi-purpose schemes with the result that proper attention was not given to minor irrigation works in every province.

4. The Central Provinces would like to have information with regard to making of manure and compost from night soil. The Agricultural Commissioner promised to send a note to them on this matter.

The Hon'ble Minister from C.P. complained about the delay in the orders of the Central Government regarding release of funds for G.M.F. Schemes. Mr. Krishnaswamy promised that this question would be taken up with the Finance Ministry.

## BIHAR

The Director of Agriculture, Bihar explained that they had concentrate their attention mostly on irrigation but ha[redacted]he same difficulties as other Provinces. These relate to supply o[redacted]n and